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long, and the skull proves it to have been an old individual.

Killer whales rarely strand on the Atlantic coast of the United States, and, aside from the individual just mentioned, there are, so far as I am aware, no specimens from definite localities on our Atlantic seaboard in any museum. Two killers stranded at Eastport, Me., in 1902, and were reported on by myself, and another was obtained at Portland, Me., in 1904, but the bones were not, I believe, preserved in either instance.

F. W. TRUE

April 6, 1909

THE PTARMIGAN AND THE SONNET

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Probably some readers of Mr. Clark's letter in SCIENCE, March 26, were no more amused at that queer ptarmigan than at his naming a blank-verse poem a "sonnet." "It is written that the shoe-maker should meddle with his yard and the tailor with his last, the fisher with his pencil and the painter with his nets," to the entertainment of men ever since old Capulet's Peter.

H. L. SEAVER

JOHANNSEN'S DETERMINATION OF ROCK-FORMING MINERALS

SINCE the book review in this journal of January 1, 1909, p. 32, the author has arranged with the publisher to indent and thumb reference the different parts of the text-book. This has added greatly to its convenience and efficiency.

L. McI. L.

FAMILY RECORDS

RECOGNIZING the great importance to humanity of a knowledge of the method of inheritance of physical and mental human characters the Station for Experimental Evolution is attempting to collect data for study and requests the assistance of persons who will volunteer to fill out a pamphlet form with blank spaces for data on some 36 characters in three generations of their family. These "Family Records" are sent in duplicate; one to be retained by the collaborator for his own

use, the other to be mailed to the station. A request by postal card for these records will receive an immediate response.

C. B. DAVENPORT

COLD SPRING HARBOR, N. Y.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Handbuch der Klimatologie. Band I. *Allgemeine Klimalehre.* Dritte wesentlich umgearbeitete und vermehrte Auflage. Von Dr. JULIUS HANN. 8vo, pp. xiv + 394, figs. 22. Stuttgart, J. Engelhorn. 1908.

1883, 1897 and 1908 are three important dates in the progress of climatology. They are the years in which were published the first, second and third editions of Hann's "*Handbuch der Klimatologie.*" Few text-books, in any one science, are so widely known to all men of science as Hann's famous "*Handbuch.*" The second edition was so complete and so satisfactory that it was practically impossible to find fault with it in any important respect. Yet the new edition is an improvement upon the former one. The size of the page has been somewhat increased, a fact which is of special significance when the climatological tables, which will be necessary in the second and third volumes, are printed. The arrangement by books, chapters and sections, as well as the many new paragraph headings, help very much to make the volume more convenient for general use. All the important literature bearing dates since the publication of the second edition is mentioned, or summarized, in the new edition. Indeed, this book is much more than a text-book. Its numerous and well-selected bibliographic lists make it truly an encyclopædia.

Additions have been made throughout the volume. We note, especially, the newly introduced or the more extended discussion, of sensible temperatures; of the relative humidity indoors; of the nature and measurements of solar radiation; of the introduction of the cyclonic unit into climatological investigations; of the reduction of temperature observations to uniform periods of time; of the zonal distribution of the climatic elements, and of the classifications of the zones. Many persons will naturally turn to the chapters on